

*A Field Guide to the Natural History of the San Francisco Peninsula.* By JOHN C. WILLIAMS and HOWARD C. MONROE. xvi + 285 pp., illustrated with numerous line drawings and photographs. McCutchan Publishing Corp., 2526 Grove St., Berkeley, Calif. 94704. Spiral bound, \$5.50; hardback, \$7.50.

In the preface to this book the authors state that: "The idea behind this book is to foster an understanding of the natural history of our surroundings so that we may better understand the potentials and cope with the problems of our environment." This is certainly a good idea and we need many more interpretive manuals. The book is divided into nine parts: introduction, bay and salt marsh, the open coast, the chaparral, the grasslands, the broadleaf forests, the cone forest, appendix, and index. The grouping of organisms by community (parts 2-7) is a good way of arranging the material.

Unfortunately, though, this guide falls far short of its goals because of the numerous factual errors. A few examples from the botanical contents of the guide, *alone*, will indicate why this is so.

One page 27, *Typha latifolia* is in the checklist of coastal and bay salt marsh plants and animals.

*Pinus radiata* (p. 48) does not "grow wild along much of the coast."

"Weeds of the genera *Brassica* ssp., *Camelina* spp., *Capsella* spp., are found all through the coastal strand." This statement from page 51 is true for *Brassica* and *Capsella*, but not for *Camelina*.

The picture labelled Morning Glory (p. 52) is actually one of *Senecio mikanioides* not of *Convolvulus soldanella* and that of Spearmint (p. 109) is *Stachys*, not *Mentha spicata*.

One page 109 we find: "Spanish Bayonet (*Yucca* spp.) is common in the southern or high chaparral." *Yucca whipplei* is known from Monterey County, but that county is not part of the San Francisco Peninsula by any stretch of the imagination. And on page 123 the Spanish Bayonet is called *Yucca schidigera*!

On page 131 we learn that Black Acacia is *Acacia melanoxia*, on p. 137 that Soft Cheat is *Bromus hordeaceus*, on page 134 that California Needle Grass is *Stipa pulchra*, on page 135 that Indian Thistle is *Cirsium edule*, and on page 141 that the California Golden Poppy is *Eschscholtz californica*. Errors of this kind are found on nearly every page.

On page 173, we find the myth perpetuated that "The California Laurel or Bay (*Umbellularia californica*) is the 'Myrtle' of the Bible."

*Vitis californica* (p. 175) does not grow natively on the San Francisco Peninsula and certainly is not "common."

The drawings on page 266 which are supposed to show differences between superior and inferior ovaries indicate that the authors do not understand the arrangement of parts in the flower.

A thorough revision of this book is necessary before it can be used.—JOHN H. THOMAS, Dudley Herbarium, Stanford University.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

*Checklist of Vascular Plants of the Intermountain Region* By ARTHUR H. HOLMGREN and JAMES L. REVEAL. iv + 160 pp. U.S. Forest Service Research Paper INT-32. 1966. Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden, Utah.

*Interspecific Relationships in the Genus Monarda (Labiales)*. By RAINER W. SCORA. University of California Publications in Botany 41:1-71. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. 1967. \$2.50.

*Memorials of John Bartram and Humphry Marshall*. By WILLIAM DARLINGTON. Introduction by JOSEPH EWAN. lii + 585 pp. (Facsimile of the edition of 1849). Hafner Publishing Co., 31 E. 10th St., New York. 1967. \$20.00